[Sri V. Ramaiah] [8th August 1963

on the extension of electricity to rural areas, the ryots are intensively taking to the installation of electric pumpsets and the Electricity Board necessarily insists on the production of clearance certificates from the Collector so as to satisfy the conditions of the Palar Basin Rules in force. The number of applications has of late increased and every effort is being made by the Collector to dispose them off with the least possible delay or inconvenience to the ryots. At the District Development Council meeting held during December 1962, it was resolved that instead of insisting on the production of a clearance certificate for every individual case, villages which did not have any spring channel or spring head within a distance of one furlong and two furlongs respectively might be excluded from the scope of the Palar Basin Rules. The Collector of North Arcot has reported that he has accordingly asked the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, to prepare lists of such villages taluk-wise and that as and when the list for each Taluk is finalised, it is being communicated to the Superintending Engineer, Vellore Electricity System, asking him not to insist upon clearance certificates in the case of applicants from such villages. Out of the 3,153 applications received during 1962 and up to 30th June 1963 for the issue of clearance certificates for installing pumpsets in North Arcot District, 1,171 cases are reported to have been disposed of. Taking Arkonam taluk alone, of the 410 applications received, 133 cases have been disposed of. The remaining cases are reported to be under scrutiny by the local officers.

The restrictions imposed by the Palar Basin Rules were discussed at a Conference held in the Secretariat on 1st June 1963 with the concerned officers and certain representatives of the public from North Arcot. The representatives enumerated the difficulties the ryots had to undergo for obtaining permits for installation of pumpsets in the Palar Basin. They were of the view that the rules should apply only to the area on both the banks of the Palar and not to its tributaries or the spring heads or spring channels. It has been decided at the Conference that the Commissioner of Land Revenue and Food Production and the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) should visit the District, hear representations locally and suggest measures for affording the relief asked for by the ryots. The reports of the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) and the Board of Revenue in the matter are awaited.

It may thus be seen that the question of further relaxing the Palar Basin Rules is under the consideration of the Government.

IV.—PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES.

SRI T. M. NALLASAMY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to present the Seventh Report of the Committee on Estimates on District Administration.